

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

**I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-31 are pending. Claims 20-30 have been withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement and claim 31 has been added herein.

**II. The Present Amendment**

No new matter is added by the present amendment. The amendment to claim 3 corrects an error in dependency and the amendment to claim 8 adds sequence identifiers required by a Notice to Comply and deletes a space in the sequence.

New claim 31 recites that the method of identifying individuals at increased risk of low folate status also identifies individuals at increased risk of hyperhomocysteinemia. This is supported throughout the specification, including page 6, lines 26-30 and page 7, lines 19-20.

**III. Response to Restriction Requirement**

As noted above, Applicants elect Group I, with traverse.

**IV. Response to Notice to Comply**

The Action further contains a requirement to comply with the sequence listing rules. A separate amendment is being filed herewith providing a sequence listing and amending the specification in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.821-825. The amendment of claim 8 to comport with the sequence rules has been made in this amendment to avoid any confusion that might occur from having the claims listed and amended in two separate amendments filed the same day.

Appl. No. 09/805,293  
Amdt. dated August 11, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of March 10, 2003 (the "Action")

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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